

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02

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OMB-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 /183 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3204

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 19988

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TAGS: ECA, CCON, TECH

SUBJ: AFRICAN REGIONAL MEETING OF THE UN CONFERENCE ON

- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT: GRESFORD

- (DA COSTA)

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM KEYNOTE STATEMENT OF
UNCSTD DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL GRESFORD QUOTING FROM TEXT
PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY UNCSTD SECRETARY GENERAL DA COSTA:

2. QUOTE: THE PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE CONFERENCE SHOULD
HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT TECHNOLOGY CAN BE VIEWED IN TWO
DIFFERENT WAYS. FIRST OF ALL, IT CAN BE REGARDED AS
PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED. SECONDLY, IT CAN BE REGARDED AS
THE OUTGROWTH AND AN INTEGRAL PART OF A SPECIFIC ECONOMIC,
SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL SYSTEM, SO THAT WHEN ONE
STUDIES TECHNOLOGICAL DEPENDENCE, A DISTINCTION MUST BE MADE
BETWEEN THE PROBLEMS ARISING IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARRANGE-
MENTS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF TECHNOLOGY BY DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES, WHICH WE MAY REFER TO AS EXTERNAL DEPENDENCE,
AND THE PROBLEMS, FAR MORE COMPLEX AND LESS EXTENSIVELY
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STUDIED, ARISING FROM A MORE SUBTLE TYPE OF DEPENDENCE
WHICH IS INHERENT IN TRANSFERRED TECHNOLOGY. THE FIRST
ASPECT COVERING SUCH QUESTIONS AS EXCESSIVE ROYALTIES,
MONOPOLISTIC CONTRACTS, INCOMPLETE TRANSFERS, SHADOW
PRICING, RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES OR CLAUSES, AND SO ON, IS
THE ONE THAT HAS RECEIVED MOST ATTENTION. THE SECOND TYPE
OF DEPENDENCE CALLS FOR SOMEWHAT MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS,

HOWEVER, AND HAS SEVERAL IMPORTANT RESULTS. FIRST THE IMPOSITION ON THE RECIPIENT PARTIES OF FOREIGN STANDARDS AND ATTITUDES AT A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEVELS, RANGING FROM PRODUCTS AND PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES TO CULTURAL ELEMENTS AND VALUE SYSTEMS. SECONDLY IT RENDERS STERILE THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CREATIVITY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHOSE CULTURES TEND IN THIS AREA, AND AT FIRST IN THIS AREA ONLY, TO BECOME PASSIVE AND IMITATIVE; IN CONTRAST WITH WHAT HAPPENED AT THE TIME OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN EUROPE AND AMERICA, THERE IS NO CALL ON LOCALLY EXISTING TECHNICAL CAPACITIES BUT RATHER AN INHIBITING OF NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND A LOSS OF SKILLS, OR THE CREATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DUALISM IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AGGRAVATED BY THE DISINTEGRATION OF RURAL SOCIETIES AND THE MIDDLE CLASSES AND THE CREATION OF ENCLAVES OF DEVELOPED FOREIGN ECONOMIES. THIRDLY, IT LEADS TO A DIMUNUTION OF THE PERSONALITY AND SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND FOURTHLY, THERE IS A FAILURE BY THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED TO PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESSES AND IN THE VERY PROCESS OF PLANNING THEIR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

3. TO CITE AN OLD ADAGE, "AS BETWEEN THE STRONG AND THE WEAK, IT IS FREEDOM THAT OPPRESSES AND LAW THAT SETS FREE". IT IS PRECISELY THIS MAXIM THAT MUST GOVERN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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NEW INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ORDER WHICH WILL, IT IS HOPED, EMERGE FROM THE CONFERENCE. FROM THE ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW, THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE THIRD WORLD WILL PROVIDE THE DEVELOPED WORLD WITH: STRONG AND STABLE PARTNERS INSTEAD OF WEAK TRADING COUNTERPARTS RESULTING FROM THE PRESENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DUALISM OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT WILL MAKE AVAILABLE VITALLY NEEDED OPENINGS FOR PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT, WITHOUT THE ENORMOUS RISKS OF INFLATION ENTAILED IN INTERNAL PUMP-PRIMING MEASURES. POLITICALLY SPEAKING, SUCH A TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE THIRD WORLD WOULD DISPEL THE VERY REAL RISKS OF DISRUPTION OR EXPLOSION ON THIS DIVIDED PLANET, REDUCE THE THREAT OF THE FORMATION OF "PROLETARIATS" AROUND THE BORDERS OF AFFLUENCE, AND MINIMIZE THE APPEARANCE OF OTHER PROBLEMS THAT ARE BOTH INSOLUBLE AND UNPREDICTABLE.

4. WHAT MEMBER STATES SEEM TO WANT AT OUR CONFERENCE AND DURING ITS PREPARATORY PHASE IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT "KIND OF NEGOTIATIONS, CHARACTERIZED BY THE FOLLOWING FEATURES: (A) THEY WOULD START AT THE CENTER AND NOT AT OPPOSITE ENDS: IN OTHER WORDS,

ON THE COMMON GROUND EXISTING BETWEEN THE VARIOUS INTERESTS INVOLVED; (B) THERE WOULD BE NO ATTEMPT AT GLOBAL BARGAINING; (C) THERE WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY LONG-TERM, OR AT LEAST MEDIUM-TERM, FRAMEWORK FOR DISCUSSION OF THE "DIPLOMATIC" AND "SUBSTANTIVE" NEGOTIATIONS (THAT IS, THE USUAL DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THEORETICAL POSITIONS AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, AND PRACTICAL ACTION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL). THE COMMON GROUND IDENTIFIED AT THE OUTSET WOULD BE GRADUALLY AND SIMULTANEOUSLY EXPANDED IN THE LIGHT OF THE REAL PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED AND THE GROWING EVIDENCE OF THE ADVANTAGES, FOR ALL COUNTRIES, OF FULL TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE THIRD WORLD.

5. THE NEW INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL
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ORDER CALLS NOT ONLY FOR CHANGES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, BUT FOR INTERNAL ADJUSTMENTS AND CHANGES IN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS WELL AS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HENCE THERE IS NEED TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT

TIME FOR ABSORPTION OF THE SECTORAL PROBLEMS CAUSED BY
THOSE ADJUSTMENTS. INDEED, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
TRANSCEND THE ECONOMIC SPHERE AND BELONG IN THE CONTEXT
OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LIFE AS A WHOLE. END QUOTE.

6. ABOVE FROM USDEL. MATTHEWS

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